

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) In a washing machine including a cabinet having a first opening through which laundry is put in at a cabinet front side, a tub having a second opening at a tub front side, and a drum rotatably installed in the tub to have a third opening at a drum front side, a gasket comprising:

a leakage preventing part having one end connected to a rim of the first opening and the other end connected to a rim of the second opening to prevent water leakage wherein a portion between the one and the other ends of the leakage preventing part is bent to prevent shocks by vibrations of the tub and drum from appearing on the cabinet; and

a laundry-stuck preventing part extended inwardly in a radial direction from an inner circumference of the leakage preventing part, and configured to prevent the laundry from being stuck in a space between the first and third openings, wherein the laundry-stuck preventing part is provided around the entire inner circumference of the leakage preventing part, the laundry-stuck preventing part including:

a ring protrusion protruding from the inner circumference of the gasket toward the third opening; and

a laundry discharge part provided on an upper portion of an inner circumference of the ring protrusion to discharge the laundry stuck between the leakage preventing part and the ring protrusion when the drum is rotating, the laundry discharge part extending generally in the same direction as the ring protrusion.

2. (Original) The gasket as claimed in claim 1, the leakage preventing part comprising:
a first connecting member having one end connected to the first opening to horizontally extend toward the tub;

a second connecting member having one end connected to the other end of the first connecting member to radially extend toward the cabinet front side; and

a third connecting member having one end connected to the other end of the second connecting member and having the other end connected to the second opening.

3. (Currently amended) The gasket as claimed in claim 2, ~~the laundry stuck preventing part comprising:—wherein the —a ring protrusion protruding protrudes~~ from an inner circumference of the third connecting member toward the third opening ~~to prevent the laundry from being stuck between the drum and the respective first to third openings; and~~

~~a laundry discharge part provided on an upper inner circumference of the ring protrusion to discharge the laundry stuck between the leakage preventing part and the ring protrusion when the drum is rotating.~~

4. (Previously Presented) The gasket as claimed in claim 3, wherein the laundry discharge part comprises a discharge protrusion extending downward from an upper end of the inner circumference of the ring protrusion.

5. (Original) The gasket as claimed in claim 4, wherein, in front view, a lower end of the discharge protrusion is tapered.

6. (Previously Presented) The gasket as claimed in claim 3, wherein the laundry discharge part is provided on an upper hemi-circle of the inner circumference of the ring protrusion and has a shape of which a width increases gradually toward a top of the hemi-circle.

7. (Currently amended) A drum washing machine comprising:
a cabinet having a first opening through which laundry is put in at a cabinet front side wherein a door is installed to open/close the first opening;
a tub installed in the cabinet to have a second opening at a tub front side corresponding to the first opening;
a drum installed in the tub to have a third opening at a drum front side corresponding to the second opening;
a rotation means having a rotational shaft penetrating a rear side of the tub to be connected to the drum; and
a gasket for preventing leakage of water in the tub, shocks by vibrations of the tub and drum from appearing on the cabinet, and the laundry from being stuck in a space between the first and third openings, the gasket including:

a leakage preventing part having one end connected to a rim of the first opening and the other end connected to a rim of the second opening to prevent water leakage wherein a portion between the one and the other ends of the leakage preventing part is bent to prevent shocks by vibration of the tub and drum from appearing on the cabinet; and

a laundry-stuck preventing part extended inwardly in a radial direction from an inner circumference of the leakage preventing part and configured to prevent the laundry from being stuck in a space between the first and third openings, wherein the laundry-stuck preventing part is provided around the entire inner circumference of the leakage preventing part, the laundry-stuck preventing part having:

a ring protrusion protruding from the inner circumference of the gasket toward the third opening; and

a laundry discharge part provided on an upper inner circumference of the ring protrusion to discharge the laundry stuck between the leakage preventing part and the ring protrusion when

the drum is rotating, the laundry discharge part extending generally in the same direction as the ring protrusion.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 7, the leakage preventing part comprising:

a first connecting member having one end connected to the first opening to horizontally extend toward the tub;

a second connecting member having one end connected to the other end of the first connecting member to radially extend toward the front side of the cabinet; and

a third connecting member having one end connected to the other end of the second connecting member and having the other end connected to the second opening.

10. (Currently amended) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 9, ~~the laundry-stuck preventing part comprising: a~~ wherein the ring protrusion protruding protrudes from an inner circumference of the third connecting member toward the third opening ~~to prevent the laundry from being stuck between the drum and the respective first to third openings; and~~

~~a laundry discharge part provided on an upper inner circumference of the ring protrusion to discharge the laundry stuck between the leakage preventing part and the ring protrusion when the drum is rotating.~~

11. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 10, wherein the laundry discharge part comprises a discharge protrusion extending downward from an upper end of the inner circumference of the ring protrusion.

12. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 11, wherein, in front view, a lower end of the discharge protrusion is tapered.

13. (Previously Presented) The drum washing machine as claimed in claim 10, wherein the laundry discharge part is provided on an upper hemi-circle of the inner circumference of the ring protrusion and has a shape of which a width increases gradually toward a top of the hemi-circle.